

Picatinny Arsenal National Hunting and Fishing Day September 27, 2014

The weather was perfect, the children were anxious and ready for the contest to kick off at 1000 hrs and the grandchildren of Picatinny's employees, military, retirees and guests were prepared to do some serious fishing during the annual children's fishing contest sponsored by the Picatinny Rod and Gun Association (PR&GA). Around 350 trout were stocked courtesy of the PR&GA and the Civilian Welfare Council in Picatinny's North Basin due to very low water levels at Lynn's Pond where the contest is normally held. The trout were a little sluggish at the beginning but picked up for some of the anglers.

Prizes were awarded to the children in three age groups. The 6 and under group was won by **Chase Conal**, 4 years old from Highland Lakes 1.01 lbs, followed by **Samantha Guidi** 5, from Flanders .96 lbs, and taking third place was won by **Alyssa McCord** 5 from Picatinny weighing in at .74 lbs. In the 7 - 11 year old group was won by **Dominick Timpani** 10 from Dover weighing in at 1.26 lbs, followed by **Cole Piazza** 7 from Picatinny weighing in at .95 lbs, and **Adelise Longo** 7 from Bangor took 3rd Place honors with a trout weighing .94 lbs. In the 12 to 15 year old group was led by **Nicholas "Nick" Forsythe** 12 from Rockaway at a whopping 2.76 lbs, followed by **Michael Attanasio** 14 from Jefferson 1.18 lbs, and **Jake Kelly** 13 from Stanhope took 3rd at .68 lbs. Winners received rod & reel combo's, tackle boxes, nets and lures. Each child that participated in the contest received a small prize. Everyone went away a winner! The prizes were presented by Major TC Brannon, President Picatinny Rod & Gun Club Association. There were 47 children that attended the event. In addition to the trout contest the children were also given the opportunity to learn safe handling of firearms with Chuck Horvath & Tim Cassidy using pellet guns and using a bow & arrow on archery target range by the Art Reimer and the Dover Sportsmen's Club members. There was also a black powder primitive display by . John Rogalo's Jr. labrador retriever (Dory) demonstrated her waterfowl retrieving techniques

A special thanks to those who helped prepare the pond for stocking, stocked the fish, assisted the children in fishing and those who prepared lunch and to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this year's National Hunting and Fishing Day a great success, without them this annual event would not have been possible!

MIKE TUTKO
Chairman NHFD